AGENDA ITEM: Telecommunications Infrastructure

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:

CURRENT STATUS:

Telecommunication Infrastructure

Representatives from the regional library networks of the Library of California (LoC) met with California State Library (CSL) staff in a virtual web/telephone conference on April 30th to share experiences and to address telecommunications challenges for the regions in 2002.

Among the topics discussed was the status of telecommunications infrastructure projects. Regions vary in how they are implementing services. Below is a summary of the status of virtual catalogs (provides method to identify bibliographic item) and resource sharing systems (identifies bibliographic item, provides information on circulation status and processes request to obtain item) in the regions based on comments at the April 30th meeting and from the plans of service for 2002 – 2003.

- Cascade Pacific has ceased support of its resource-sharing server.

- Golden Gateway has members represented in the MOBAC and SVLS virtual catalogs as well as the NBCLS SuperSearch resource sharing system. Creation of a new resource sharing system is on hold pending additional funding. Sierra Valley is adding additional LoC libraries to the 49-99 CLSA virtual catalog, several school libraries received software to connect their catalogs via Z39.50.

- Arroyo Seco has struggled with the implementation of their system and has put it on hold for the current year; it may proceed next year as funding permits. Z39.50 grants to members are under consideration.

- Tierra del Sol needs additional planning. It is promoting utilization of existing Z39.50 access to each member's catalog by using Z39.50 client gateways from within each library's OPAC.

- Gold Coast and Heartland have established resource-sharing systems and continue to develop and maintain them.

Staff and the CALZIG (California Z39.50 Implementers Group LSTA Grant) consultant Cary Gordon gave an update on National Information Standards Organization (NISO) standards development regarding Z39.50, the telecommunications protocol for linking library catalogs. The U.S. National Profile

for Z39.50 is close to being voted upon, and a maintenance revision of the NISO Z39.50 protocol itself is currently under ballot.

Participants reviewed the progress of the CALZIG LSTA grant project. A current listing of Z39.50 accessible catalogs with configuration and status information was displayed. All participants will be given access to the site to support their local efforts.

The criteria for CLSA subsidies for Z39.50 access were also discussed. Staff indicated that this issue will be explored as part of the CLSA Statewide Data Base Program report.

The use of web based conferencing software (from the 24/7 virtual reference program) in combination with telephone conference calling was successfully used for this meeting. Participants stated that it seemed best suited for information presentation and as a component of a meeting series that includes face-to-face events. The length of the meeting (two hours) was difficult for some who did not have access to speakerphones or headsets.

Regional library network representatives in the meeting included Marian Milling and Nancy Brower, Cascade Pacific; Mary Ellen Tyckoson, Heartland; Darla J. Gunning and Lois Shumaker, Sierra Valley; Cary Gordon, Cherry Hill Company; CSL staff members Ira Bray and Mark Parker; Judith Segel, Vince Schmidt, Mark Lager, Gold Coast; Gail McPartland, Golden Gateway; and Stephanie Beverage, Arroyo Seco.

Telecommunications Infrastructure Long Range Planning

Mark Parker presented an outline of integrated services for the Library of California to the May 1st meeting of LoC Regional Contacts and CLSA representatives (see Budget Report in this packet). The role of telecommunications infrastructure as a support mechanism for that vision of services will be investigated and efforts made to identify principles and values to guide that development. Discussions with regional representatives as to the appropriate role of statewide telecommunications services are also important in this effort.

Staff continue to stay abreast of standards development and their applicability to the LoC Telecommunications Infrastructure. Three standards have direct relevance to products and services utilized to build out the program:

- ANSI/NISO Z39.50 - 1995 Information Retrieval: Application Service Definition & Protocol Specification, including the U.S. National Profile for Z39.50 (Draft)
- ISO 10160/10161 Information and Documentation - Open Systems Interconnection - Interlibrary Loan Application Service Definition and Protocol Specification
- NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol (NCIP) (Draft, in Development)

Staff will develop information as to the level of adoption of these standards by the vendor community. Once NISO has formally accepted those currently in draft then the LoC Board may wish to incorporate their use as policy for all LoC funded projects. The LoC Board may also wish to promote their importance for the LoC in dialogue with the vendor community.

Z39.50 Connectivity

The CALZIG (California Z39.50 Interest Group) project is a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant to support the use of the Z39.50 protocol by libraries and to address security concerns about its use in a secure network environment. The database of Z39.50 accessible catalogs is now completed and is available on the CALZIG web site (http://aquila.chillco.com/calzig/). Work continues of maintenance support for that data and exploration of statewide gateway and security issues.

E-Rate Program

The Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) provides affordable access to telecommunications services for all eligible schools and libraries in the United States. The USAC is a not-for-profit corporation appointed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to ensure that the benefits of telecommunications services reach students and communities across the country. Funded at up to $2.25 billion annually, the program provides discounts on telecommunications services, Internet access and internal connections.

The California State Library is responsible for the approval of technology plans from each applicant public library. The application form for Funding Year 6 (7/1/03 – 6/30/04) is now available on the SLD website. Technology plans must be on file and approved by the time the library files the Form 486, Receipt of Service Confirmation, with the SLD.

Staff has informed public library directors about the California E-Rate/California Teleconnect fund email list sponsored by the California Department of Education. (http://www.cde.ca.gov/erate/). The list is open to both libraries and schools and provides up to date information on application information, deadlines and changes in program policy. Staff continue to collaborate with the California Department of Education as well as telecom vendors to coordinate information and training about the E-Rate and California Teleconnect Fund, plans are underway for training in the Fall of 2002.

<u>RELATED ISSUES TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE</u>:

1. Development of Regional and Statewide Telecommunications programs.

2. Restriction on Z39.50 access and eligibility for Z39.50 funding.

Relevant Committee: Support Services
Staff Liaison: Ira Bray